

# Advancing alcohol research in Ireland – How to stay up to date

## The HRB National Drugs Library

Mary Dunne and Mairea Nelson

# Library



**Librarians ?**



## Library of Alexandria, 300 – 30 BC

19<sup>th</sup> C. German engraving

## Librarian titles

In the Temple of Thoth there was a priest known as

**‘Keeper of the Sacred Books’**

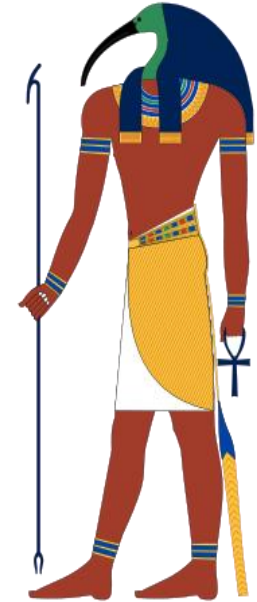
and his assistant, bore the title

**‘Lady of Letters, Mistress of the House of Books’**

Librarians responsible for medical books had titles such as:

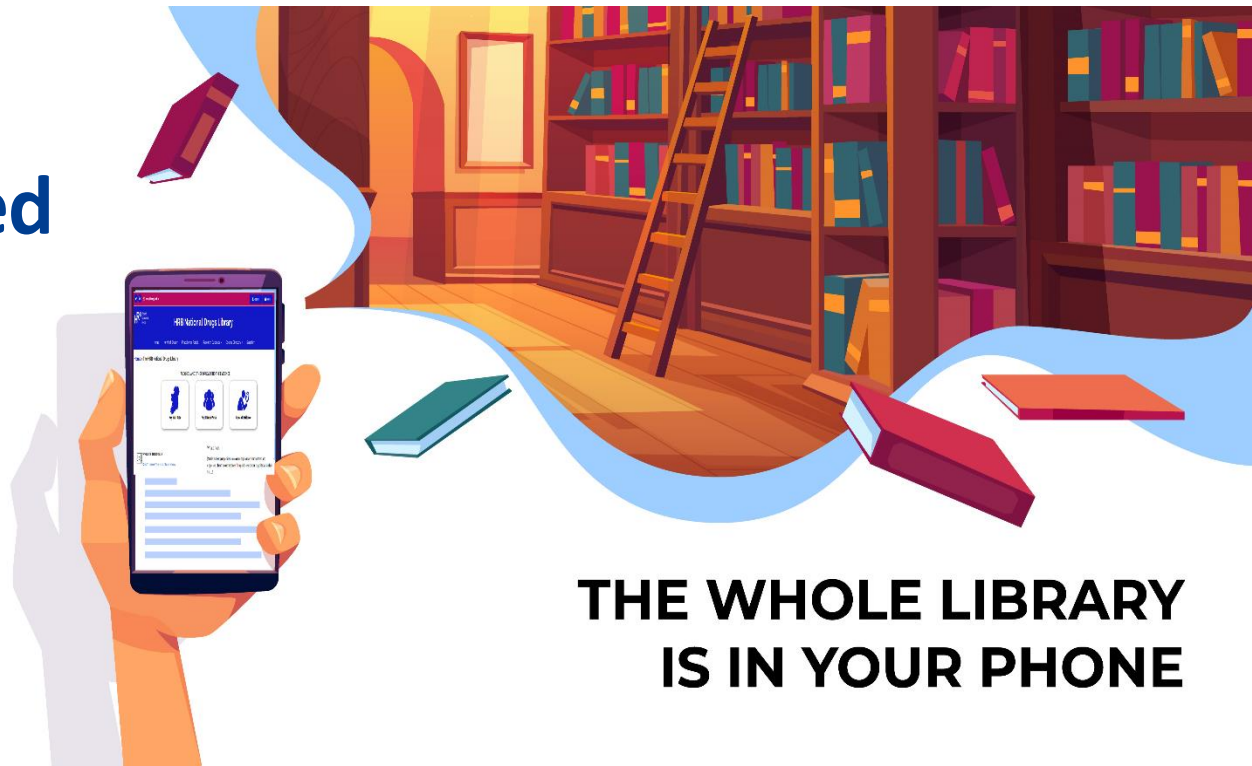
**‘Scribe of the Double House of Life’** and

**‘Learned Men of the Magic Library’**



Thoth

# Evidence-informed decision-making



**THE WHOLE LIBRARY  
IS IN YOUR PHONE**

homelessness

deprivation

education

trauma

crime and justice

suicide

substance use  
addiction

economics

health

social care

## Library collection

Irish and key international research on substance misuse:

- **Illegal substances** - opiates, cocaine, cannabis, sedatives, stimulants, hallucinogens, and new psychoactive substances
- **Problematic use of other substances** - alcohol, prescription and over-the-counter medication
- Tobacco and nicotine
- Other addictions, such as gambling and gaming





# HRB National Drugs Library

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[Key Irish Data](#) ▾

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▸ [Advanced Search](#)

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## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS: FIND THE EVIDENCE



[Key Irish Data](#)



[Practitioner Portal](#)



[Research Evidence](#)



### WEBSITE TUTORIALS

[Click to view website instructional videos](#)

### What's new...

[Article] Social anxiety disorder is a risk factor for alcohol use problems in the National Comorbidity Surveys.

*Published: 4th September 2023*

[Newsletter] Drugnet Ireland.

*Published: 4th September 2023*

# Advanced search

Search		Reset the form		
<b>Title:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>		
<b>Subject:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="+"/>	
<b>All fields:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>		
<b>Author:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>		
<b>Abstract:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>		
<b>Geographical area:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>		
<b>Publisher:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>		
<b>Year/Date Range:</b>	<input type="text"/>			
<b>Type of Item:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> All Types	<input type="checkbox"/> All (except news & debates)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Article	<input type="checkbox"/> Events		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Thesis		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Webpage	<input type="checkbox"/> Video		
	<input type="checkbox"/> FactSheet	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dail Debates	<input type="checkbox"/> Dataset		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Book	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Resource		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Book Section	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> News		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conference or Workshop Item			
	<b>Optional Filters:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish-related		
		<input type="checkbox"/> International		
Any of these ▾				
<input type="checkbox"/> Peer reviewed articles				
<input type="checkbox"/> Review				
<input type="checkbox"/> Guideline				
	Any of these ▾			

## Subjects – top level

- **Library collection** (24917)
  - A Substance use and dependence (6781)
  - B Substances (11231)
  - E Concepts in biomedical areas (2069)
  - F Concepts in psychology (2861)
  - G Health and disease (7230)
  - HA Screening, identification, and diagnostic method (263)
  - HJ Treatment method (2837)
  - J Health care, prevention, harm reduction and rehabilitation (10386)
  - L Social psychology and related concepts (3882)
  - MA-ML Social science, culture and community (2441)
  - MM-MO Crime and law (6006)
  - **MP-MR Policy, planning, economics, work and social services (6984)**
  - N Communication, information and education (1998)
  - P Demography, epidemiology, and history (1335)
  - R Research (563)
  - T Demographic characteristics (8008)
  - VA Geographic area (24325)

## Subjects - sublevels

- Library collection (24917)
  - **MP-MR Policy, planning, economics, work and social services (6984)**
    - Economic aspects of substance use (cost / pricing) (855)
    - Economic policy (791)
    - Financial management (482)
    - Government agency (134)
    - Government and politics (196)
    - Labour and work (263)
    - **Marketing and public relations (advertising) (738)**
    - Organisational development / co-operation (390)
    - Policy (3195)
    - Political process (189)
    - Programme planning, implementation, and evaluation (1001)
    - Social services (431)
    - Substance industry, trade or business (569)

# Advanced search - example

		Search	Reset the form
<b>Title:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Subject:</b>	all of ▾	marketing alcohol	<input type="button" value="+"/>
<b>All fields:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Author:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Abstract:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Geographical area:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Publisher:</b>	all of ▾	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Year/Date Range:</b>	<input type="text"/>		
<b>Type of Item:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> All Types	<input type="checkbox"/> All (except news & debates)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Article	<input type="checkbox"/> Events	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Thesis	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Webpage	<input type="checkbox"/> Video	
	<input type="checkbox"/> FactSheet	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dail Debates	<input type="checkbox"/> Dataset	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Book	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Resource	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Book Section	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> News	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conference or Workshop Item		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish-related		
	<input type="checkbox"/> International		
	Any of these ▾		

## Advanced search results

Displaying results 1 to 40 of 446

Refine search

New search | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | Next

Order the results: by year (most recent first) v

Reorder

Export 446 results as

ASCII Citation v

Export

1. *[Article]* Dixon, Helen and Scully, Maree and Niederdeppe, Jeff and Brennan, Emily and O'Brien, Kerry and Vandenberg, Brian and Pettigrew, Simone and Wakefield, Melanie (2023) [Can counter-advertising dilute marketing effects of alcohol sponsorship of elite sport: a field experiment](#). *Addiction*, Early online. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.16317>
2. *[Article]* Nicholls, Emily (2023) "I don't want to introduce it into new places in my life": the marketing and consumption of no and low alcohol drinks. *International journal of drug policy*, 119. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2023
3. *[Dail Debates]* [Oireachtas] [Dáil Éireann debate. Questions 807 - Legislative process \[Alcohol Act\] \[34101/23\]](#). (11 Jul 2023)
4. *[News]* [Advertising Standards Authority for Ireland] [ASA to review current guidance relating to the advertising of non-alcohol product variants](#). (28 Jun 2023)
5. *[Report]* European Association for the Study of the Liver. (2023) [EASL policy statement reducing alcohol harms 2023](#). Geneva: European Association for the Study of the Liver.
6. *[Article]* Bryce, Carmen (2023) [Mental health and alcohol](#). Alcohol Action Ireland blog,
7. *[Report]* Alcohol Action Ireland. (2023) [Policy Briefing. The sale and marketing of zero alcohol drinks](#). Dublin: Alcohol Action Ireland.



# Advanced search - refining

Search    Reset the form

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**Subject:** all of

**All fields:** all of

**Author:** all of

**Abstract:** all of

**Geographical area:** all of

**Publisher:** all of

**Year/Date Range:**

**Type of Item:**

<input type="checkbox"/> All Types	<input type="checkbox"/> All (except news & debates)
<input type="checkbox"/> Article	<input type="checkbox"/> Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Thesis
<input type="checkbox"/> Webpage	<input type="checkbox"/> Video
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<input type="checkbox"/> International	<input type="checkbox"/> Guideline

Any of these

Any of these

# Advanced search - example

Search    Reset the form

Title: all of

**Subject:** all of

All fields: all of

Author: all of

Abstract: all of

Geographical area: all of

Publisher: all of

**Year/Date Range:**

Type of Item:

<input type="checkbox"/> All Types	<input type="checkbox"/> All (except news & debates)
<input type="checkbox"/> Article	<input type="checkbox"/> Events
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<input type="checkbox"/> Irish-related	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
<input type="checkbox"/> International	<input type="checkbox"/> Guideline
<input type="text" value="Any of these"/> <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="text" value="Any of these"/> <input type="button" value="v"/>



Home > Subject matches "marketing alcohol" AND Year/Date Range is 2019 or more AND Refereed

Save your  
advanced search

Displaying results 1 to 40 of 43.

Refine search | New search | **Save search** | 1 | 2 | Next

Order the results: by year (most recent first) ▾

Reorder

Export 43 results as ASCII Citation ▾

Export

1. [Article] Dixon, Helen and Scully, Maree and Niederdeppe, Jeff and Brennan, Emily and O'Brien, Kerry and Vandenberg, Brian and Pettigrew, Simone and Wakefield, Melanie (2023) [Can counter-advertising dilute marketing effects of alcohol sponsorship of elite sport: a field experiment](#). *Addiction*, Early online. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.16317>
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3. [Article] Calnan, Susan and Millar, Sean and Mongan, Deirdre (2023) [Support for evidence-based alcohol policy in Ireland: results from a representative household survey](#). *European Journal of Public Health*, 33, (2), pp. 323-330. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad031>
4. [Article] Critchlow, Nathan and Purves, Richard I (2023) [Alcohol branding during rugby union matches in Ireland after commencement of Sect. 15 from the Public Health \(Alcohol\) Act: a frequency analysis of highlights from the European Rugby Champions Cup and Six Nations Championship](#). *Irish Journal of Medical Science*, Early online. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11845-023-03331-8>
5. [Article] Clarke, Natasha and Blackwell, Anna K M and Ferrar, Jennifer and De-Loyde, Katie and Pilling, Mark A and Munafò, Marcus R and Marteau, Theresa M and Hollands, Gareth J (2023) [Impact on alcohol selection and online purchasing of changing the proportion of available non-alcoholic versus alcoholic drinks: a randomised controlled trial](#). *PLoS Medicine*, 20, (3). doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1004193



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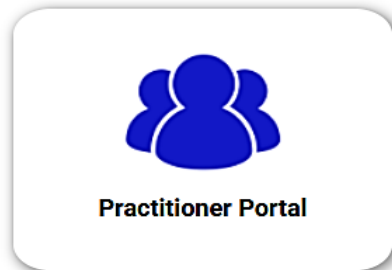
[Search](#) ▾

[Home](#) > [The HRB National Drugs Library](#)

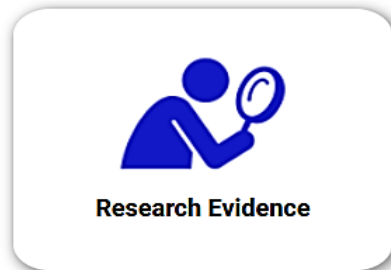
## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS: FIND THE EVIDENCE



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[Research Evidence](#)



### WEBSITE TUTORIALS

[Click to view website instructional videos](#)

### What's new...

[Article] Social anxiety disorder is a risk factor for alcohol use problems in the National Comorbidity Surveys.

*Published: 4th September 2023*

[Newsletter] Drugnet Ireland.

*Published: 4th September 2023*


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## Key Irish data



**Factsheets**



**Regional Data**



**Prevalence Data**



**Treatment Data**



**Deaths Data**



**Newsletters**



**National Reports**



**Policy Reports**



**Alcohol Policy**



**Alcohol Research**

# Factsheets

1. *[FactSheet]* HRB National Drugs Library. (2023) [Factsheet: Alcohol - the Irish situation.](#)  
Dublin: HRB National Drugs Library.
2. *[FactSheet]* HRB National Drugs Library. (2023) [Factsheet: Young people, drugs and alcohol: the Irish situation.](#) Dublin: HRB National Drugs Library.
3. *[FactSheet]* HRB National Drugs Library. (2023) [Factsheet: Gambling - the Irish situation.](#)  
Dublin: Health Research Board.
4. *[FactSheet]* HRB National Drugs Library. (2023) [Factsheet: Smoking and vaping - the Irish situation.](#) Dublin: HRB National Drugs Library.
5. *[FactSheet]* HRB National Drugs Library. (2023) [Factsheet: Cannabis - the Irish situation.](#)  
Dublin: HRB National Drugs Library.
6. *[FactSheet]* HRB National Drugs Library. (2023) [Factsheet: Cocaine - the Irish situation.](#)  
Dublin: HRB National Drugs Library.
7. *[FactSheet]* HRB National Drugs Library. (2023) [Factsheet: MDMA/ecstasy - the Irish situation.](#)  
Dublin: HRB National Drugs Library.




# HRB National Drugs Library

## Key Irish data



Factsheets




Regional Data



Prevalence Data



Treatment Data



Deaths Data



Newsletters



National Reports



Policy Reports

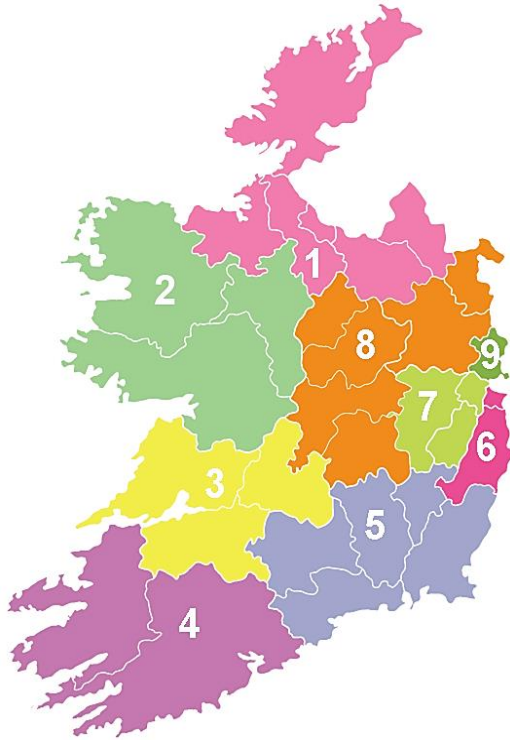


Alcohol Policy



Alcohol Research

# Regional data – HSE CHO area



We have created a data factsheet for each CHO area with information on drug prevalence and treatment.

- [CHO area 1 – Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan and Monaghan](#)

- [CHO area 2 – Galway, Roscommon and Mayo](#)

- [CHO area 3 – Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary](#)

- [CHO area 4 – Kerry and Cork](#)

- [CHO area 5 – South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford](#)

- [CHO area 6 – Wicklow and Dublin South East](#)

- [CHO area 7 – Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, and Dublin Southwest](#)

- [CHO area 8 – Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Louth and Meath](#)

- [CHO area 9 – Dublin North, Dublin North Central and Dublin North West](#)

To view data for all CHO areas in one factsheet, see: [Drugs data factsheet: All CHO areas](#)

See also, Doyle, Anne (2023) [Regional alcohol-related harm - County level factsheet](#).  
Dublin: Health Research Board.

# Prevalence data

## How many people use alcohol and other drugs in Ireland?

*Drug prevalence* is the proportion of a population who have used drugs in a given time period.

### National Drug and Alcohol Survey publications

- [The 2019–20 Irish National Drug and Alcohol Survey: main findings report](#)
- [Regional data from the NDAS is available in our CHO factsheets](#)
- [Gambling in the Republic of Ireland. Results from the 2019–20 NDAS](#)

National population surveys have taken place in Ireland, every four to five years since 2002.

[Click this link for previous national survey reports,](#)

### School and youth surveys

### Other prevalence sources

### National Drugs and Alcohol Survey data

# Treatment data

## National Drug Treatment Reporting System

Access treatment data tables

Access latest alcohol treatment publication

### 2022 Alcohol treatment demand in Ireland

HRB Health Research Board

HRB StatLink Series 15

#### Alcohol treatment demand

Total number of cases treated

7,421



44% new cases



52% previously treated cases

#### Characteristics

-42+

42 yrs median age



8% homeless



34% employed

#### Gender



62% males

38% females

#### Alcohol dependent

All cases

65%



64% new cases



68% previously treated cases



-18+ 2022

-15+ 2016



#### Parental status

Of cases with children aged 17 or younger

#### Polydrug use ————— Drugs most commonly used with alcohol —



24% of cases use other drugs with alcohol

1st alcohol plus cocaine

2nd alcohol plus cannabis

3rd alcohol plus cannabis and cocaine

#### Polydrug problem drug by age



19 years or younger cannabis



20-34 years cocaine



35 years or older cocaine

#### Gender

##### Female



-44+

44 yrs median age



63% alcohol dependent



15 standard drinks



19% polydrug use



5% homeless

##### Male



-41+

41 yrs median age



67% alcohol dependent



20 standard drinks



27% polydrug use



10% homeless

hrb.ie



# NDTRS treatment data tables – variables 1

## Select substance of interest

Alcohol

Drugs

Drugs and alcohol

## Select years of interest

All (combined)

All

Deselect all

2021

2020

2019

2018

2017

2016

2015

2014

2013

2012

2011

2010

2009

2008

2007

2006

2005

2004

## Select age ranges of interest

All (combined)

All

Deselect all

Under 18

18 to 24 years

25 to 34 years

35 to 44 years

45 to 64 years

65 years or over

Unknown

## Select treatment status

All (combined)

All

Deselect all

New cases (never  
previously treated)

Previously treated

Unknown

## Select genders of interest

All (combined)

All

Deselect all

Male

Female

Non-binary

Unknown

# NDTRS treatment data tables – variables 2

## Primary category



None	Source of Referral	Highest education level	Number of problem substances
Age Range	Employment status	Route of administration	Ever injected
Treatment Status	Living with whom	Frequency of use	Shared needles and syringes
Gender	Type of accommodation	More than one substance (polysubstance)	Shared other drug paraphernalia

## Select geographical region of residence

- County
- Local drugs and alcohol task force area
- Community health organisations (CHO)
- Regional drugs and alcohol task force area
- Local health office (LHO)

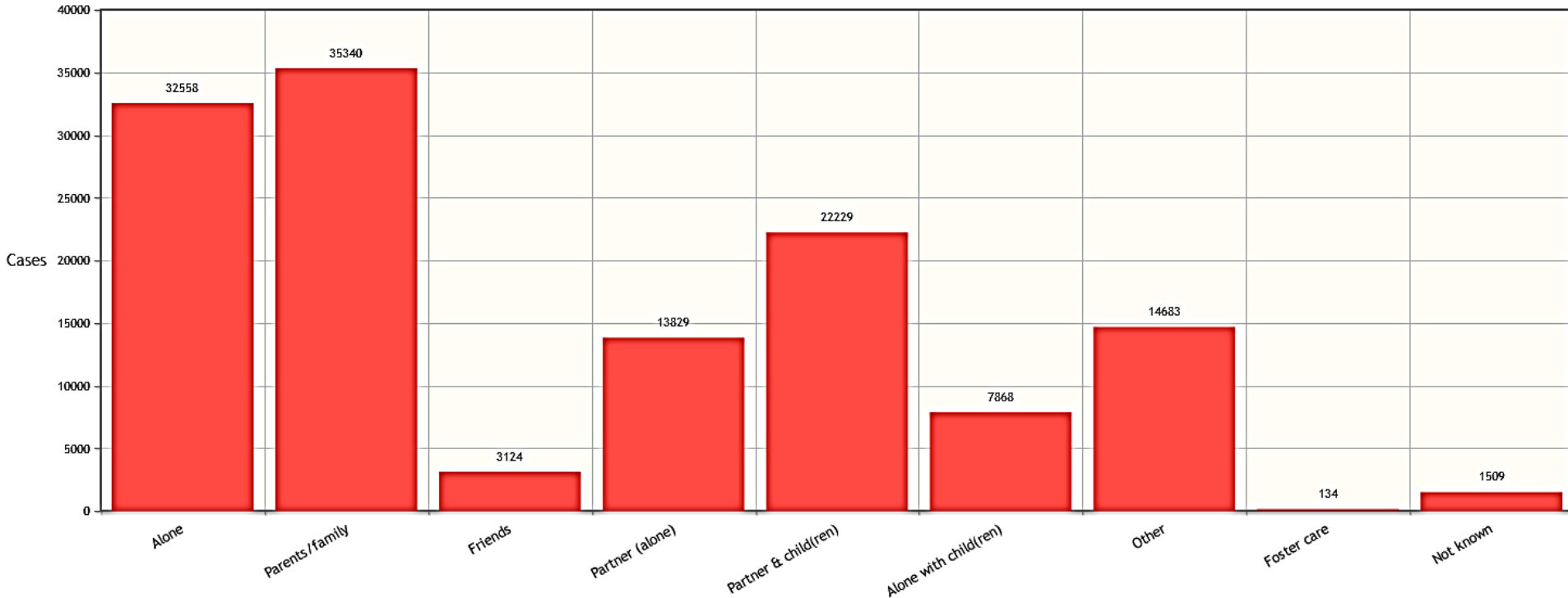
# NDTRS treatment data results table

## Example – Alcohol as main problem drug and living with whom

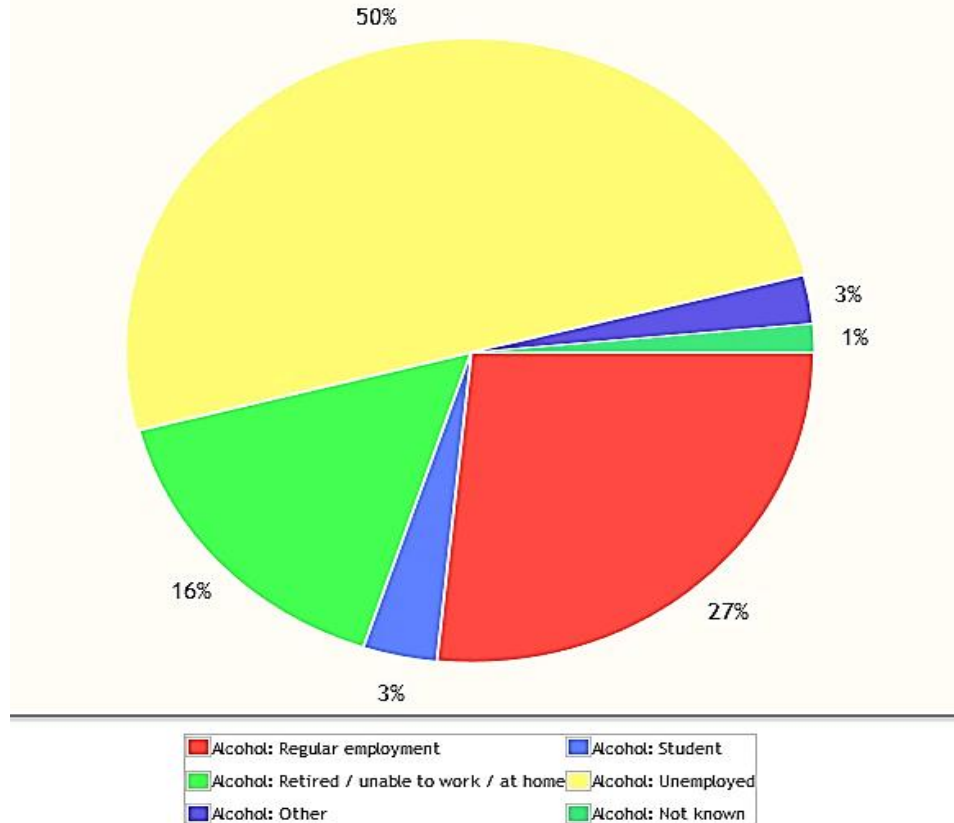
		Alcohol								Totals	
Living with		Alone	Parents/family	Friends	Partner (alone)	Partner & child(ren)	Alone with child(ren)	Other	Foster care	Not known	
County											
All (combined)		32558	35340	3124	13829	22229	7868	14683	134	1509	<b>131274</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>32558</b>	<b>35340</b>	<b>3124</b>	<b>13829</b>	<b>22229</b>	<b>7868</b>	<b>14683</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>1509</b>	<b>131274</b>

# NDTRS treatment data – bar chart

Main Problem Drug for All (combined) | Year: All (combined) Gender: All (combined) Ages: All (combined) Treatment Statuses: All (combined)



# NDTRS treatment data – Pie chart



# Deaths data

The **National Drug-Related Deaths Index** (NDRDI) provides information about the number of deaths by drug and alcohol poisoning; and deaths among drug users and people who are alcohol dependent in Ireland.

New [preliminary figures from the Health Research Board](#) (HRB) on drug-related deaths show there were 409 poisoning deaths in 2020.\* There were also 397 non-poisoning deaths, with hanging the most common cause of these deaths. The findings were presented at the Citizens Assembly on Drug Use on Saturday 24 June 2023.

## Key findings

- 409 deaths were poisonings and 8 in 10 of these deaths involved more than one drug
- Almost 6 in 10 involved benzodiazepines and many of them had more than one type of benzodiazepine
- 3 in 10 involved cocaine
- 2 in 10 involved alcohol (as part of a poly drug poisoning)...

# Newsletters

The **library newsletter** is a monthly electronic digest of Irish drug, alcohol and tobacco publications, news and Dail debates.

[Click here to read the current issue of the newsletter](#)



**Drugnet Ireland** is a quarterly newsletter by the Health Research Board. It contains up-to-date information, news and summaries of research findings.

[Click here to read the current issue](#)

[Click here to read previous issues](#) (from 2004)



[Click here to sign up for the library newsletter and drugnet Ireland](#)

# National report and Policy reports pages

## National report

The annual national report for Ireland is separated into a series of themes:

[Drug policy](#)

[Drugs](#)

[Drug markets and crime](#)

[Harms and harm reduction](#)

[Legal framework](#)

[Prevention](#)

[Prison](#)

[Treatment](#)

Additional resources:

[EMCDDA European drug report 2023](#)

## Policy reports

[Reducing harm, supporting recovery.](#)

[Other Irish drug and alcohol policy documents](#)

[Irish drug and alcohol policy resources](#)

[European and International policy](#)



# HRB National Drugs Library

## Key Irish data

 <p>Factsheets</p>	 <p>Regional Data</p>	 <p>Prevalence Data</p>	 <p>Treatment Data</p>	 <p>Deaths Data</p>
 <p>Newsletters</p>	 <p>National Reports</p>	 <p>Policy Reports</p>	 <p>Alcohol Policy</p>	 <p>Alcohol Research</p>

# Alcohol policy page

- Office of the Attorney General (2018) [Public Health \(Alcohol\) Act 2018](#).
- Alcohol Action Ireland (05 Jun 2019) [What is the Public Health \(Alcohol\) Act?](#)
- (2021) [Alcohol consumption, alcohol-related harm and alcohol policy in Ireland](#). HRB Overview Series 11.
- (2022) [Alcohol and other drug use among children and young people in Ireland: prevalence, risk and protective factors, consequences, responses, and policies](#). HRB Overview Series 12



Oireachtas debates



Alcohol laws



Irish policy



International policy

The following links give you access to specific **alcohol-related topics for Ireland**



Economics



Pricing



Advertising



Harms policy



Sales context



Industry



Health labels



Social Issues



Offence



Drink Driving



Affected family



Child trauma

# Alcohol policy page - topics

The following links give you access to specific alcohol-related topics for **Ireland**



Economics



Pricing



Advertising



Harms policy



Sales context



Industry



Health labels



Social Issues



Offence



Drink Driving



Affected family



Child trauma

The following links give you access to specific alcohol-related topics for **Ireland and internationally**



Economics



Pricing



Advertising



Harms policy



Sales context



Industry



Health labels



Social Issues



Offence



Drink Driving



Affected family



Child trauma

# Alcohol research page

For local data, see our regional data webpage



[Factsheet](#)



Treatment Data



Irish Research



International Research

The following links give you access to specific **alcohol-related topics for Ireland**



Datasets



Prevention



Prevalence



Treatment



Harms



Deaths



Health



Screening



Crime



Risk factors



Family



Youth


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## Key Irish data



**Factsheets**




**Regional Data**



**Prevalence Data**



**Treatment Data**



**Deaths Data**



**Newsletters**



**National Reports**



**Policy Reports**



**Alcohol Policy**



**Alcohol Research**

## Summary

- **Quick updates** – Library newsletter, Drugnet Ireland, X: @hrbdrugslibrary  
Register and save searches for your subjects of interest using the advanced search
- **Search our collection**
- **Summaries** – National and regional factsheets
- **Policy** – Policy page & Dail debates
- **Prevalence, treatment, deaths & alcohol data** – Key Irish data resource
- **Other resources** – Practitioner portal, doing research, useful websites...

**Empowering  
through evidence**

